YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES COMMITTEE BYLAW

I. Authority

The Youth and Family Services Committee is established by Article 19 of the 1998 Annual Town Meeting.

II. Membership

The Youth and Family Services Committee shall consist of nine members appointed by the Selectmen for three year terms: four members shall be at-large and the remaining five members shall be representatives from constituent Town departments such as Police, Schools, Public Health, Recreation, and Selectmen.

Additional advisory members from a broad base of constituencies such as parent associations, Hanscom Air Force Base, other community groups, youth, and veterans will be actively solicited. Such advisory members shall be non-voting members of the committee.

III. Purpose

The purpose of the Youth and Family Services Committee is to advise the Town about programs and services in support of its mission, which is to identify and address the social, emotional, and developmental needs of children, youths, adults, and families in Bedford through programs and services that support and nurture.

IV. Responsibilities

The Youth and Family Services Committee shall provide advice related to its primary functions:

- Develop and implement counseling services for residents, coordinating with other Town departments and the schools, as well as other area resources.
- Initiate educational programs for the public at-large about issues and choices related to a healthy family life, including the hazards of alcohol and drug use.
- Provide information about linkage to area resources, as well as entitlement programs such as veterans' benefits, fuel assistance, and medical assistance.
- Promote youth empowerment through programs designed to educate in collaboration with Schools, Police, and other youth-serving organizations.

Article 35 of Town of Bedford General Bylaws Amended through Annual Town Meeting 2010, revised after Strategic Planning Process of FY 09.